

Australian Curriculum

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

March 2010

Implementation

Q: When will the Australian Curriculum be implemented?

A: The development of the Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history will be completed in the third quarter of 2010.

While the process of implementing the Australian Curriculum is a matter for each state and territory, ACARA will assist states and territories in this regard.

Implementation of the Australian Curriculum is likely to vary by learning areas and by states and territories depending on the extent of difference between the new Australian Curriculum and existing state and territory curricula. ACARA is working with state and territory education authorities to map the extent of change to assist them to develop their implementation plans.

While there will be flexibility in commencement of implementation of the Australian Curriculum for K-10 English, mathematics, science and history depending on specific issues to be addressed in each jurisdiction, all states and territories have committed to working towards implementation by 2013. Timelines for the implementation of the senior secondary curriculum will be determined in 2010.

Q: Will ACARA specify required hours of instruction for learning areas?

A: ACARA will not specify required hours for learning areas. ACARA has provided indicative time allocations for each phase one learning area to help guide the curriculum writers.

ACARA recognises that time allocations for subject areas vary across jurisdictions, education systems and schools.

Q: What curriculum material and professional learning support will be provided to assist the implementation of the Australian Curriculum?

A: The development of the Australian Curriculum is a shared responsibility of Australian and state and territory governments. Implementation of the Australian Curriculum is the responsibility of state and territory education authorities, with ACARA playing a national coordination role.

At the national level, the newly established Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and Education Services Australia are expected to play a key role alongside the various professional and subject associations and other agencies in supporting the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

One of the benefits of a national curriculum is that national and state and territory resources can be pooled to be available to support all teachers.

At a local level, it is expected there will be extensive use of local and site-based professional learning, supported by online professional development.

In the first instance, questions and issues regarding the implementation of the Australian Curriculum should be directed to the relevant state and territory education authorities.

Q: Will schools be able to continue to offer alternative curriculum?

A: Under the National Education Agreement and the Schools Assistance Act 2008, all schools and school systems have committed to introduce the Australian Curriculum.

ACARA is developing a national recognition process for well established alternative curricula in the context of the Australian Curriculum. Until a national approach is developed and accepted, schools that offer well established alternative curricula, such as Steiner, Montessori and International Baccalaureate, will continue to operate under state and territory registration arrangements.